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1st Amendment Under Attack in NH



SEE PAGE 4

PHOTO: JANET ALDRICH

Attorney Michele Kenney of Pierce Atwood in Portsmouth, NH objected to 75 year old Valley Patriot court reporter Janet Aldrich being present during a First Amendment trial in Hillsborough County Superior Court. Kenney represents Acadia Insurance, which is trying to have the courts censor an on-line boycott campaign and have Twitter and Facebook pages taken down.

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Beneath The Surface

Paul Murano

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TV TALK
w. Bill Cushing

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FREDDIE SAYS

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IN YOUR CORNER
Sen. Ives

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VALLEY PATRIOTS OF THE MONTH

U.S. Army - Dracut's Frank Polewarczyk 79th Infantry World War II

John Cuddy

VALLEY PATRIOT HERO REPORTER

This month's "Hero in our Midst" is one of 4,916 men in the 79th Infantry Division who received the Bronze Star, and one of 15,203 Purple Hearts awarded to the 79th Infantry (count is inflated due to some men receiving more than one Purple

Heart). The 79th served in the European Theater during the Second World War.

Dracut's Frank Polewarczyk is originally from Lowell, Massachusetts. He is one of ten children, all five of his brothers served in the military during World War II, and all five of his brothers-in law as well. They are part of the 16 Million members of the Greatest Generation who fought

and won World War II. What makes this number more impressive is that the 1940 census reports 131,012,722 Americans. So around 15 percent of Americans alive in the 1940s served in the war, or in the case of the Polewarczyk family, 100% of the men. To compare, only 1% of Americans in 2018 are currently serving in the U.S. Military.

The statistics say it all; U.S. Army 79th Infantry, activated on 15 June 1942 at Camp Pickett, Virginia, deployed to Europe on April 7, 1944, fought in the campaigns in Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, the Ardennes-Alsace, and Central Europe. The unit spent 248 days in combat! The Division earned eight Distinguished Unit Citations. The Division returned home on December 10, 1945, and was decommissioned on December 20, 1945.

At Shaw's Diner in Dracut, I had breakfast with Frank, and listened to him talk for three hours in great detail about the fighting in Europe during the war. He told me that the U.S. Army troops were issued "bouillon" cubes with their food rations. His comrades used to toss them out, Frank would keep them, then when he obtained some local vegetables, he used to make soup for himself and his squad.

On December 9, 1944, Private Polewarczyk, on patrol with his regiment, found himself and his unit, surrounded by German soldiers. After he told a fellow soldier that he was going to take out a Nazi machine gun nest, he was spotted by the enemy and hit. He vividly described



getting wounded, and the doctors at the aid station telling him that he would be better served by a Catholic Chaplain, who gave him the last rites. The U.S. Army Chaplain did good work, Frank will be 93 years old this April 13th.

I asked Frank where he was on VE-Day, the day Germany surrendered. After taking 19 days to cross the North Atlantic on a hospital ship, Frank was recovering from his wounds in a military hospital at Ft. Devens, Massachusetts. When his parents came to visit, the first thing his mom did, was check to make sure he still

HERO: PAGE 22



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EDITORIAL: Print Newspapers Preserve Our Freedoms

As we celebrate the 14th Anniversary of The Valley Patriot we see a troubling future for free speech and a free press here in the United States. As most people get their information about the world through the internet, print newspapers are folding daily.

What makes this dangerous is that only a handful of people control what you can see on-line. Google censors your search results. Facebook and Twitter censor your posts and even change the words you used to explain your feelings or your thoughts.

YouTube punishes people who do not share their political views by stripping them of the right to monetize their videos (make money through ads).

Last month, Valley Patriot publisher Tom Duggan had his Facebook "privileges" suspended for 48 hours for daring to state that men and women are biologically different and that men who believe they are women [or vice versa] have a mental illness.

That has always been true, by the way. It is "settled science", it's not even an opinion. And while you are FREE to take issue with

that if you like, to have that sentiment censored and removed from the public debate as an "unacceptable view" is scary. It's something that totalitarian dictators do.

When those who control the information that you see can remove or even change facts, our ability to be free is lost forever. In order to maintain our right of free speech, we must be able to make informed decisions by having access to all views, hateful or otherwise. Facebook wants you to hold THEIR opinions and if you don't like it, well you should just shut up about that. If you complain, your Facebook "privileges" will be revoked even longer. They may even shut down your page.

Facebook actually sent a notice to all those who viewed Duggan's "offensive" post saying that they believe "you have a right not to be offended by what you see on-line."

ACTUALLY NO ... NO, YOU DON'T. That kind of backward thinking has been shared by every dictator and tyrant in history. It has never ended well. For anyone!

In a free society you have the right to disagree. You also have the right to look away. But you do not have a right NOT to be offended. Nor should you.

Take a hard look at your Twitter or Facebook pages today. Tomorrow half of what you have posted about your life might just be gone. News stories you once read may also disappear because it doesn't meet the world view of those who want to live in an alternate reality. This is the beginning of the white-washing of history, while it is actually happening.

"Libertarians say 'it's their company they have the right to do as they want.' The problem is that there is no alternative. Facebook, Twitter, Google and YouTube are all owned by people trying to create a world of mob rule that controls what you know, and by the way THEY control the mob.

These corporations can pretend they are not "content providers" and therefore not subject to regulation by the government. But, the second they removed material based on "content", they became exactly

that. And they should be regulated. We are either all treated equally on-line, or we are not. Right now, we are not.

This is by far the most compelling reason to advertise and support local print newspapers like the Valley Patriot or the Methuen Loop. Once something is in print it cannot be deleted. It cannot be censored. History cannot be rewritten.

In the near future, print newspapers will be the only platform where people with dissenting views can be heard and can fight back against perceived thought-crimes. Someday soon we will all wake up being told what to think by our computers and our phones - and punished for not complying. We are almost there now.

Happy Anniversary to everyone who has ever contributed to the Valley Patriot's mission to preserve our First Amendment rights over the last 14 years. Our future ultimately depends on the businesses who support free speech with their advertising dollars at the local level. We sincerely hope you will continue doing that. Otherwise....

Armed Marshals Needed Nationwide to Prevent School Shootings

D.J. Deeb

METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Members of the Methuen School Committee has been very busy these last few months as we prepare for the upcoming budget discussions, contract negotiations, and course planning for next year. I will be devoting my column next month to discussing the city and the school budget as members of the school committee are scheduled to work on and

approve a preliminary budget during the month of March. For now, I will briefly report on some of our non-budget highlights over the past month and offer my own thoughts on the horrific recent school shootings.

The Methuen School Committee voted unanimously to approve new course electives at Methuen High School for Fall 2018 that includes Theater Workshop, Piano Keyboarding, Introduction to Sports Medicine, and Robotics. These courses will replace outdated courses in website

development and fashion technology, which are being eliminated. Thus, these new courses will not increase the budget line items for Methuen schools. Robotics especially is a growing field that offers many career opportunities for college graduates and giving interested students early exposure to this field is advantageous and beneficial.

Methuen High School will now have a History Honor Society for students who excel in history. According to Superintendent Judy Scannell, "The History Honor Society is putting on the final touches of accepting its first group of students. Short term goals include running a voter registration clinic this spring." I am pleased to see that students who excel in history at Methuen High will be able to be part of this activity and be recognized as scholars in their field.

The School Committee recently recognized the Medugno family for their annual fund-raising event for Methuen Public Schools, which yielded over \$6,000 for activities to promote drug-free students and schools. Kudos and thanks to the entire Medugno family for their dedication and efforts in supporting these important programs in our schools.

Recently, Methuen Public Schools secured \$343,200.00 in HP computers from a federal government agency in

Portsmouth, N.H. 550 computers will be used to upgrade our eight computer labs and four media centers in the grammar schools. Kudos to Director of Instructional Technology Ed Lussier and his team for monitoring the government donation website and ultimately securing these computers for Methuen public Schools without additional costs to the taxpayers.

On another note, I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the horrific events that have taken place in recent weeks involving school shootings. My heart goes out to the families and friends who have lost loved ones in these tragic killings. Having said this, no amount of gun control is going to prevent these horrific acts from taking place. What we need to look at is whether what we are doing now nationwide is working.

Methuen Police Chief Joe Solomon is proposing the installation of a shooter detection software system in every Methuen school building at an approximate cost of \$600,000. I like the idea of shooter detection software, but we cannot fool ourselves into thinking that this is the answer to the problem. Even Chief Solomon admits that this shooter detection system will not prevent an attack. What it does is help law-enforcement to identify where a shooter is in the build-

SCHOOLS: PAGE 17

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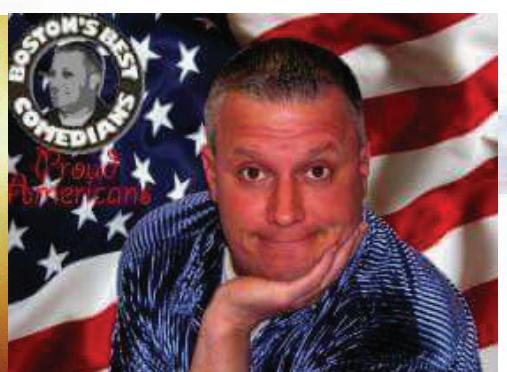
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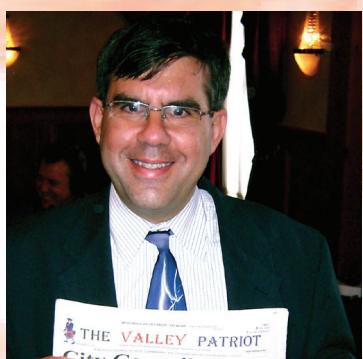
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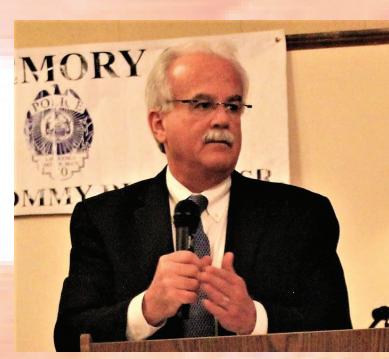
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Acadia Insurance Attorney Tries to Remove Reporter from Public Trial

Attorney Michele Kenney Asks Judge to Have Reporter Removed from Court, Then Asks To Have Prior Restraint Ordered Against Salem Man

Last month, The Valley Patriot was present in Hillsborough County Superior Court in NH following the First Amendment trial of Acadia Insurance Company vs. Michael Demers.

Ironically, during the trial, Acadia asked a judge to not only throw a member of the press out of a public civil trial in a public building, but then made a motion to strip Salem, NH resident Michael Demers of his First Amendment right to publish photos or videos taken by the Valley Patriot during the trial.

The issue before the court is a complaint against Mr. Demers by the multi-million dollar corporation, Acadia Insurance Company, who represents Haffner's Oil Company.

BACKGROUND

Haffner's Oil Company overfilled the oil tank of the Demers family in Salem, N.H., pumping 250 gallons of oil into their basement. The oil seeped into the walls, floors, into the ground, contaminating the entire property. Acadia spent months contracting with environmental companies to clean up the property but did not clean it all.

Mr. Demers says those representatives from Acadia [as well as the environmental contractor] promised that they would "make it right" and "put the home back in the condition it was in before the spill."

There is no disputing that they did not do that, as the house still smells of oil and the Demers family claims to have had health problems because of it.

"We took them to court and we lost," Demers says, adding that even though Acadia found a "legal maneuver to get out of completely cleaning up the site", he believes Acadia has a moral obligation to do so. So, he started an online boycott of Haffner's and Acadia on line.

"They looked my 80 year old mother in the eyes and promised her they would make it right. They never did that. We sued and we lost in court, fine. But they still have a moral obligation to keep their word."

Now, Acadia has filed a court complaint against Demers claiming harassment, asking the court to force the removal of Demers' boycott pages on Facebook and Twitter.

"They are trying to silence me," Demers says. "They aren't asking for money, they aren't claiming damages, they just want to silence me so people won't know what they did to my mother's home and how



Attorney Michele Kenney of Pierce Atwood in Portsmouth, NH objected to a member of the press being present at a public trial, ironically involving the First Amendment.

they refused to make it right."

FIRST AMENDMENT LAWSUIT TAKES A TROUBLING TURN

During the trial last month, Attorney Michele Kenney from Pierce Atwood in Portsmouth NH decided to make the presence of The Valley Patriot an issue before the judge. Kenney represents Acadia Insurance.

Attorney Kenney first objected to 75-year old Valley Patriot court reporter Janet Aldrich [on loan from Catch of the Day Video News] being present during the trial, saying she should not be allowed in the public proceeding because she didn't get "prior notice" that a reporter was to be present.

She also claimed that because The Valley Patriot is owned by "A Tom Duggan, a high school friend of Mr. Demers" that the reporter was only there to get photos and video to continue the harassment of Acadia on behalf of Mr. Demers.

When the judge dressed Atty. Kenney down saying she was not going to violate the first amendment rights of the press by having a reporter removed from a public trial, Attorney Kenney changed her tune, saying she wasn't trying to violate the First Amendment Rights of the Valley Patriot reporter (which she clearly did) but that she wanted to violate the rights of Mr. Demers by having the court order him not to use any photos or videos published by the Valley Patriot in his on-line boycott

SCHOOLS: PAGE 11



In Memory of
Lawrence Police Officer
Thomas J. Duggan

Officer Duggan's name appears on Panel
36w of the National Law Enforcement
Officers Memorial in Washington D.C.



Killed in the line of Duty
March 16, 1990



"WEATHER 101" WITH AL!

February/March Weather

Al Kaprielian

VALLEY PATRIOT WEATHERMAN

Welcome to March and the month when daylight savings time returns on Sunday March 11. March can still be known for snowstorms. With the sun getting higher in the sky and stronger the snow that falls in March does not last too long. We will also see increasing daylight as the days continue to get longer as we go through March.

With the return to daylight savings time we will see a later sunset along with more daylight. Recapping February we did not see the real bitter cold air we saw as the month of January began. There was not a lot of snow nor any blizzards during February because a lot of the low-pressure systems tracked to the west of New England. When low pressure tracks to our west we are on the warmer side of the low and more rain occurs than snow. There was some accumulating snow on February 7th, however, it did not last long as there was a change to sleet and rain.

Some freezing rain occurred in southern New Hampshire. Our next snow event came on February 17th during the evening hours and ended by daybreak Sunday morning. More snow occurred with this storm than was predicted. Only a few inches of snow were forecasted. However, six, seven and even a few eight-inch amounts occurred. The storm was supposed to track south of Cape Cod & the islands to only give us a few inches. In the end the storm tracked a little farther north spreading the heavier snow north. Also, the snow was fluffier and this can cause the snow to accumulate more quickly versus if the snow was wetter.

In weather we call this the fluff factor when more snow can occur than was forecasted. This was the case more in areas of northern MA and southern New Hampshire. In Boston and the surrounding suburbs the snow was heavier containing more water.

This snowfall would not last very long and melted quickly as very warm temperatures occurred on February 20th & 21st. High temperatures were in the 60s to low

70s on February 20th. High temperatures were in the 70s and even an 80 degree temperature was recorded at Fitchburg on February 21st. Lawrence reached 78 degrees on February 21st. These temperatures were very anomalous (unusual) for February. Many areas recorded new high temperatures during these two days as the old record highs were surpassed.

Some people wore shorts during these two very warm days making it not look like February at all. What caused this unusual record warmth?

The answer is a very large and strong upper level high pressure system off the southeast U.S. coast. This upper level high had a pressure of 594 decameters unusual to see this in February!!

This upper level high was so strong that it pushed the jet stream north of New England putting our region on the warmer south side of the jet stream. This very warm air did not last more than two days as a cold front came through on the evening of February 21st. This cold front would stall just to our south and a wave of low pressure would move along it on February 22nd.

With colder air north of the cold front we saw a return to winter and snowfall on February 22nd. The month of February ended quiet and mild. Even though the month ended quiet, a change occurred in the upper atmosphere. An upper level high pressure system formed over Greenland Canada; this is known as the Greenland high.

When this occurs it causes a blocking pattern where low pressure systems are blocked from going to our west and are forced south of New England. This is a change from what we have experienced most of the winter with no blocking high to our north and storm tracking to our west. With this new pattern, an intense ocean storm will occur for the beginning of March. We will talk about this storm and all its impacts in next month's article. We will also talk about what we can expect for weather in April.

Until then enjoy the increasing daylight during this month.

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Jajuga's Resume on Public Safety is a Fraud

SAFETY OF CHILDREN NO PRIORITY FOR JAJUGA

Last week, Methuen School Committee man Jana DiNatale suggested at a meeting that the city set up a public safety committee to discuss keeping kids safe in the Methuen schools, especially given the recent spate of school shootings nation-wide. She also suggested renewing a line item in the budget for software that teachers can use as a "panic button" if something is going on in their classroom which requires immediate police response.

Instead of supporting DiNatale's suggestions, however, Mayor Jim Jajuga rejected them stating publicly that it was not a priority for him. Just imagine.

He then proceeded to tell the audience that he doesn't need a committee and doesn't really need the input of ... well ... anyone because he's "Mister Public Safety."

Jajuga then ranted for what seemed like forever about his endless public safety resume, bragging about all the public safety jobs he has held - all the while humiliating DiNatale for suggesting that he be bothered with input from the little people ... just like Judy Scannell's new poodle Nick DiZoglio does whenever DiNatale, (a mother with children in the schools) fights for transparency or safety in the schools.

But I digress, we will visit DiZoglio's public safety issues another time.

THE SILENCE IS DEAFENING

It is more than a little troubling that not one person in Methuen dares to challenge Jajuga on his fake police resume. It's public knowledge, yet, not one member of the press, nor one elected official has been brave enough to bring it up... even privately.

So, once again it falls on me to talk about the elephant in the room and give the public a much more complete picture of the man sitting in the mayor's office, making police decisions, and in charge of your school children in the City of Methuen.

ABOUT THAT STATE

STATE POLICE RESUME

Jajuga loves to tout his experience as a Massachusetts State Trooper who was once a member of the state police drug task force. That sounds pretty impressive doesn't it? What he doesn't tell you is that he was forced off the state police because of heroin addiction and several other serious issues.

That is a fact.

Jajuga took multiple trips to rehab while quietly getting to keep his job. Friends on the department covered for him, and local politicians covered for him too - at least



Paying Attention! WITH TOM DUGGAN

until they could cover for him no more.

Feeling more confident about your Methuen Mayor's ability to run your schools or police department yet?

Wait there's more.

COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Jajuga also likes to brag about how he was once appointed by the governor to be the State's Commissioner of Public Safety. He was the man in charge of police and security for the entire commonwealth.

Impressive right?

Here again, he cleverly leaves out the very minor detail that it was Jim Jajuga in charge of public safety and security at Logan Airport on 9/11.

YEAH... that's right... it was Jim Jajuga at the helm of Logan when Muslim terrorists breached security at the airport and flew two planes into the twin towers. I wonder why he

leaves that out when he's pounding his fist self righteously trying to humiliate women like Jana DiNatale or anyone else who might have a suggestion about safety in our schools?

Yes, Jajuga loves to think that he alone is "Mister Public Safety" and nothing the little people have to say could possibly be of any help to him, much less a committee made up of meddling parents who, unlike Jajuga, actually have children walking through those school hallways every day.

Jajuga was forced to resign as commissioner, but he doesn't tell you that when he's grandstanding... and coincidentally, neither does the rest of the local media. (That's Strike 2 if you are keeping score at home).

Then there's his stint as a state senator.

A PRO COP STATE SENATOR?

NOT SO FAST!

Jajuga also served as a state senator, where he pushed for free needles for drug addicts - but of course only in brown communities like Lawrence.

He also tried to get even with the state police for forcing him out, by trying to take away their private construction details, all the while secretly trying to setup a flag-man business where he and his friends

could heavily profit from the legislation he alone was pushing.

Crickets from the local media on that one, too. Weird huh?

Jajuga spent more time as a senator trying to destroy the Massachusetts State Police, than he spent advocating for the law abiding citizens he was once sworn to protect. He was, by definition a crooked cop and a crooked senator.

Once again, Jajuga was forced to resign from his state senate job mid-term, quietly



of course, as he was under both state and federal investigation for a multitude of criminal accusations, none the least of which was his involvement with "Crest Associates" and the bizarre and untimely death of Rich St. Louis, whom Law Enforcement sources said at the time was set to testify against Jajuga just a few days later. Rich St. Louis' mysterious death was mysteriously ruled a suicide.

It's weird how none of this comes up when Jajuga is pretending to be the all-knowing, all-seeing, authority on all matters involving police and public safety.

But it's far worse that the local news media is in his pocket and have actively white washed his resume while letting him get away with telling the redacted version of his public safety past for political gain.

TWO PAYCHECKS, ONE JOB, AND PASS THE JOINT!

(STRIKE 4 BUT HE'S STILL NOT OUT?)

As if all that wasn't bad enough, Methuen Mayor Jim Jajuga was recently caught red handed being paid to lobby for a marijuana distributor while Haverhill Mayor Jim Fiorentini was using him to act on behalf of his city to negotiate with that same marijuana distributor.

The Secretary of State fined Jajuga \$2,500 for concealing his lobbying activity from the public.

According to WHAV, Haverhill City Councilor Robert H. Scatamacchia said an undated letter of support signed by him was obtained under false pretenses. Healthy Pharms (the pot company) used that letter as "Evidence of Local Support"

that was required for them to move to Haverhill. Scatamacchia said Mayor James J. Fiorentini supplied the letter and retyped it on to Haverhill City Council letterhead, on behalf of Jajuga, which is fraud any way you look at it.

The Secretary of State's Office Wrote:

"The required lobbying disclosure shows Jajuga represented Healthy Pharms between Oct. 20 and Nov. 21, 2013. The same form also shows campaign contributions Jajuga made to local, elected officials during the same period. Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 3, Section 43 requires "the names of the candidate or political committee to whom or to which the contribution was made, and the amount and date of each contribution."

In short, Jajuga was buying influence and concealing it. Yet, come election time, nobody in the media seemed to care.

JAJUGA THE FRAUD

Trust me when I tell you, this is just the tip of the iceberg on this guy.

Jim Jajuga is a total fraud.

He always has been.

He talks a good game but that's all it is, talk. He uses threats and intimidation to get his way and when that doesn't work he destroys people personally.

He's a con artist who used to wear a badge and was forced to resign, used to be a commissioner and was forced to resign, used to be a senator and was forced to resign, and now he runs YOUR police department and YOUR schools in Methuen touting his breadth of "law enforcement experience" to handle things like school shootings and securing school buildings - with no help or input from the little people.

All the while attacking mothers who want to help keep their kids safe in today's violent school environment.

People of Methuen ...
you have a problem!

It's just weird that nobody else bothered to tell you that before now.

For some real interesting reading visit:
http://archive.boston.com/news/local/articles/2003/12/27/jajuga_awarding_of_grants_probed/


Tom Duggan is publisher of The Valley Patriot, hosts the Paying Attention Podcast, is an author, a former Lawrence School Committeeman, and a 1990 police survivor. Subscribe to his YouTube Channel for live news and video. You can E-mail your comments to valleypatriot@aol.com

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BASH SPONSORS - This year we are really far behind schedule raising money for scholarships for the 14th Anniversary BASH as my hectic schedule has taken me away from my usual fundraising phone calls. PLEASE consider making a donation of any amount to "The Valley Patriot BASH" 75 Main St. North Andover MA 01845. The event is March 23rd at the Firefighters Relief In, 1 Market St. in Lawrence. Doors open at 5pm, dinner starts at 6pm, program starts at 7pm. You can also make a donation on our Eventbrite page, just search Eventbrite for "Valley Patriot BASH". You can also order tickets on that page as well.

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY DONATED TO THE 14th ANNIVERSARY BASH!

AFC Urgent Care \$200, Heather Mariani \$200, Howe Street Superette \$250, Northern Process Servers \$250,

Lightship Liquors \$250, Jana Dinatale \$250, Lenny Mirra \$250, Joe Dunn \$500, Geoff Diehl \$500,

Atty. Paul Lambert \$500, Tim Sheehan (Sheehan's Towing) \$500, Joe Solomon/EIS \$500, Tim Wood (Methuen Loop) \$500, Bob Sheehan \$600, Eugene Smith/Military Connections \$1,000, Mike Gagliardi/Laborer's Union Local 175 - \$1,000. Donating Veteran Tables Dan Cotnoir from Racicot Funeral Home in Dracut, Martinneau's Towing in Methuen.

NO LITTLE LEAGUE THIS YEAR IN LAWRENCE?

Our pal Brian Thomas has been taking money out of his own pocket to help kids in South Lawrence East Little League with equipment, uniforms, and a storage pod for equipment for the last decade or more. In short, Brian is going broke trying to help the kids of Lawrence play baseball and that's just not right. So, last year Brian asked the City of Lawrence to help by building a concession stand to help fund SLE little league. I was there when Lawrence Mayor Dan Rivera promised to help and the project does seem to be in the works, but the clock is ticking and if this doesn't get done in the next few weeks Brian is going to have to cancel the season. That's a tragedy of biblical proportions in a city like Lawrence. I'm not going to say that the city is dragging their feet on this, but they certainly don't seem to be handling it with any sense of urgency. First, there is no reason someone like Brian should have to pay for other kids uniforms. He has his own kid. Yet, he does it because he believes that every kid in Lawrence who wants to play should be able to play. Last year we put out the call and Jeanne D'Arc Credit Union in LOWELL stepped up to the plate (pun intended) and helped Brian pay off previous years' balance on the storage pod. That was wonderful! You should all do business with Jeanne D'Arc for their

TOM DUGGAN'S NOTEBOOK



Methuen Fire Chief Tim Sheehy reads some Dr. Seuss classics to Mrs. Tracey Harris' Kindergarten class at the Marsh Grammar School in Methuen. The children loved the stories and asked the Chief some great questions. Chief Sheehy also talked to the kids and answered questions about fire safety. It was a great time and terrific way to get out into the community.

support of our kids. BUT THIS YEAR the league still has expenses that are simply not covered and without a concession stand to pay for expenses, or private donations of at least \$5,000, the children of Lawrence will have no baseball this year. That means kids with nothing to do in a city like Lawrence all summer. I am hoping some of our readers will contact me (978-771-4091) to help out. It would be a real shame if after all Brian's efforts and the efforts of everyone at SLE to have it all end with no season for 2018. But, I guess that's up to you guys now.

Valley Patriot BASH Committee Announces the 2018 Nominees for our 1st Amendment Award

2017 Nominees:

Methuen State Rep. Linda Campbell, Turtleboy, Mike Demers, Jana DiNatale, and Jessica Finocchairo.

Each year The Valley Patriot grants a First Amendment award to 2 individuals who show with their actions that they value the 1st Amendment to the Constitution and are willing to fight for it.

Nominees of this award are or have taken ACTION, bold action, to make sure the public is more informed about what their government leaders and representatives are doing and have fought to preserve our 1st Amendment Rights. Winners will be announced on March 23, 2018 at the Firefighters Reliefs In on 1 Market St. in Lawrence at 7pm. Get your tickets or make a donation at the link below.

PREVIOUS WINNERS:

(2014) State Auditor Suzanne Bump & State Senator Katy Ives

(2015) State Rep. Jim Lyons *Mike Sweeney (LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT!)
(2016) State Rep. Diana DiZoglio, Dr. Bharani Padmanabhan

(2017) State Senator Bruce Tarr & Methuen Police Chief Joe Solomon
NORTH ANDOVER TOWN ELECTIONS ARE THIS MONTH

You would never know it though. I long for the days when North Andover Town elections actually had lots of candidates seeking office and lots of debate and discussion about the future of the town. This year, you would barely know there was an election even happening. One of the surprises this year is a challenge to Town Moderator Mark DiSalvo who spends no money and is barely campaigning. He's well liked but that love he gets from the community will certainly wain if gets too comfortable in his job, which it seems he is. This year DiSalvo is being challenged by North Andover resident Jerry Brecher. I encourage you all to go to Mr. Brecher's campaign website and see what he's all about (Brecherformoderator.com).

As for the board of selectman race, you can vote for two candidates this year. The only one who has shown any interest at all in reaching out to my readers and informing them about what's going on in Town is "Phil of the Future" Phil DeCologero. I don't always agree with Phil, but he works his ass off, and most importantly he never makes up his mind before trying to get all sides on any issue. As for Dick Vailencourt, well... some day he might come on board and be proactive... like letting the press know about an important vote coming up, or issuing a press release about... well....

anything. We are hoping if he gets reelected that will happen. And when it does, I will be happy to consider voting for him.

METHUEN: WE DON'T NEED NO STINKING POLICY!

Every once in a while I have to criticize a public figure for something that seems small, but is really a symptom of a much larger problem. I usually try to get the point across to the official first before it becomes a story that I have to write about, but when all else fails...well it ends up in the notebook. So is the case of transparency in government on the Methuen School Committee.

Recently School Committeeman Jana DiNatale suggested making it an official policy to have the video of public meetings posted on-line within 24 to 48 hours after the meeting takes place. She was told by Superintendent Scannell that an official policy "wasn't necessary" because, well they get it posted on-line pretty quickly anyway. I'm sure you can see where this is going. Last week, DiNatale asked why a meeting wasn't posted on line more than 48 hours after the meeting occurred and guess what she was told! "Well, there's no POLICY that says we have to."

THIS is the reason you can never, ever, ever trust any executive who says that a policy "isn't needed" because, in practice it's already being done. The control remains with them. If there is no policy in place restricting them they can still do whatever the hell they want. And they do. As a side note, guess where Superintendent Scannell's new poodle Nick DiZoglio stood on the issue of transparency in government? Yup, he was yipping at Jana's heals in service of his new master to make sure the Superintendent maintains as much power as she can.

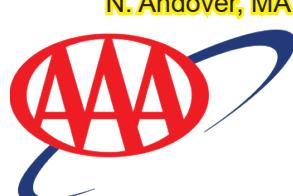
THE FLORIDA SHOOTING HIGH-LIGHTS HOW STUPID OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS ARE

Last month the shooting in Parkland Florida gave us a real look at how utterly stupid our politicians are in Washington D.C. and as a side bonus how dumb the actors on CNN are. After the shooting, CNN and DC politicians said we should stop adults between the ages of 18 and 21 from getting a rifle. The argument is that they are just too immature and irresponsible to handle a "weapon of war". Yet these same demagogues are simultaneously holding town-hall meetings with high school kids in an attempt to let these "young and irresponsible" kids dictate what our gun laws should be. These are also the same people who are OK with your 13-year-old going to a guidance counselor at school and having them taken for an abortion without their parents' knowledge or consent. So, an 18-year-old is mature enough to handle the right to vote, join the military and even get

CONTINUED UNDER FREDDIE

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If you want to join this organization dedicated to St. Brigid, contact LAOH Division 8 President Sue Fink at susan.fink2001@gmail.com.

**FREDDIE SAYS**

If CNN is right and Donald Trump is a Nazi, who hates blacks and Mexicans and Jews, why is CNN so eager for him to take away all your guns?

Freddie also Says
EAT AT THE DAILY DOSE CAFE at PENTUCKET MEDICAL IN LAWRENCE
978-557-8601

an abortion, (which is NOT in the constitution by the way) but not to own a rifle. No wonder this country is in the middle of a civil war. Half the population is just too stupid to square their own belief system.

LETS TAKE GUNS FROM PEOPLE SEEKING HELP WITH MENTAL ILLNESS – BUT, LETS ALSO TAKE THEIR RIGHT TO VOTE

So, if the Democrats get their way, people with "mental illness" (which takes many forms and seldom leads to violence) should have their constitutional right to carry a gun taken away from them. And if they

succeed at that, we have now opened the door to taking other constitutional rights away from people for having a "mental illness". Like the right to vote, and the right of free speech or protections against illegal searches. And who knows, once the government redefines what is, and what is not a mental illness, they could also take away your right not to be enslaved, or your right to privacy, or a jury of your peers. This is a very slippery slope the Democrats and even the president has put us on, and it's not going to end well if they get their way. We are headed down a path where the government gets to decide what constitutional rights you may enjoy based on how the government defines your mental health status,

DIANA DIZOGlio FIGHTS FOR VETERANS

State Representative Diana DiZoglio (D-Methuen) hosted a press conference alongside the Career Resources Corporation and Veterans Northeast Outreach Center to announce funding secured for Haverhill veterans programs.

The Haverhill-based Career Resources Corporation is a non-profit that helps veterans with disabilities who are seeking employment opportunities. For 50 years, it has worked to empower individuals with disabilities and other barriers to be successful and self-sufficient. The Veterans Northeast Outreach Center, also based in Haverhill, provides care to veterans and their families, from food and shelter needs to advocacy, information, referral, career and education services.

THANK YOU TO SCOTT EMERSON & EVERYONE AT WHEELABRATOR

Every year, the Greater Lawrence Exchange Club hosts the Police Officer, Firefighter, and EMT of the Year Award Dinner. With all the anti-police and public safety propaganda in the media, it's a rare, yet amazing, event that honors the heroic deeds of the men and women who put their lives on the line every day to protect people they don't even know. This event takes place every year because of a \$5,000 donation by Wheelabrator in North Andover. We want to thank Wheelabrator for that; it's incredible what they do, and more people

NOTEBOOK: PAGE 18



The crew of Dental Partners on South Broadway in Lawrence held an open house - ribbon cutting last month nearly a year after opening their business. Lawrence Mayor Dan Rivera came by for a meet and greet and thanked Dr. Izedian for bringing his practice to Lawrence!

Hero Lawrence Firefighter Armano Enters Race for State Senate

DRACUT - Calling for new leadership that will stand up for working families, Dracut Democrat Michael Armano, this week announced his intentions to run for the 2nd Essex and Middlesex State Senate seat. Armano, a lieutenant with the Lawrence Fire Department took out nomination papers to run for the seat vacated by Senator Barbara L'Italian. The Democratic Primary is in September.

"Working families deserve someone who will stand up and fight for them at the State House," said Armano. "I'm running to bring new leadership to the State Senate and to continue my lifelong commitment of serving my community."

Born and raised in Lawrence, Mike graduated from Central Catholic in Lawrence, UMASS Lowell, and Massachusetts School of Law in Andover. Immediately after law school, Mike successfully passed the bar in Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine.

Upon starting his career as a firefighter, Mike graduated from the Mass Fire Academy while earning his EMT license and pursuing his master's degree in Public Administration. Currently, Mike serves our community as the Lieutenant of Fire Prevention in Lawrence, specializing in



code enforcement, arson investigation, and public education.

From an early age, and throughout his education, Mike was inspired by his elders to pursue the study of law, community organization, and public administration. As a proud member of the Lawrence Firefighters Local 146, Mike is both civic minded and dedicated to public service. He is a fourth-generation civil servant.

The 2nd Essex and Middlesex Senate district includes: Andover, Dracut, Lawrence, and Tewksbury.



**City of Lawrence,
Massachusetts**

**Attention Lot Owners
Bellevue Cemetery
REMOVAL NOTICE**

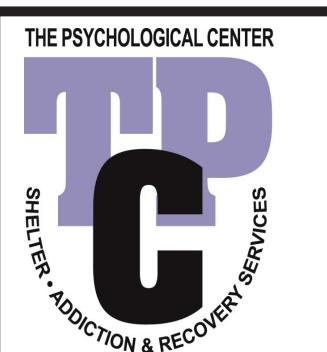
The Bellevue Cemetery Board of Directors is requesting that all Lot Owners please remove all temporary memorials, debris, and prohibited items which include bricks, curbing, tiles, poured concrete, masonry, fencing, and other items that have been placed around monuments and grave lots. These items are an impediment to routine maintenance operations as well as a safety hazard and must be removed.

We kindly ask lot owners to remove all items by April 1, 2018. After that date, "SPRING CLEANUP" will begin the Cemetery staff will begin removing and discarding items after that date. Please call the cemetery office @ (978) 620-3560 if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Jorge Jaime

Acting Superintendent



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Or contact Kelly Townsend, 978-291-2264, kelly.townsend@psychologicalcenter.com
 Director of Corporate and Community Engagement



Congratulations to

The Valley Patriot!



It's hard to believe that it was 14 years ago when The Valley Patriot first hit the streets. But, looking back at all the corruption you have exposed, and the way you have educated the public about our government, I know the Merrimack Valley is better off for your efforts! Congratulations to Tom, Chuck, Ralph and everyone at The Valley Patriot for not only exercising, but defending the 1st Amendment to the United States Constitution!

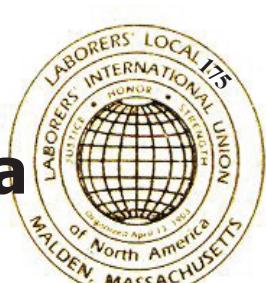
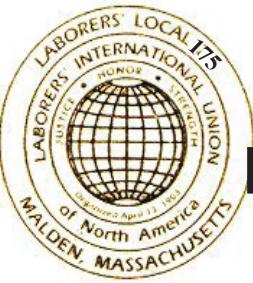
~Mike Gagliardi~

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-Mike Gagliardi,

Local 175 Laborers' Union of North America



IN YOUR CORNER

Unaffordable and Inaccessible Child Care Limits Economic Growth in Massachusetts

State Senator Katy Ives
VALLEY PATRIOT CONTRIBUTOR

By State Senator Katy O'Connor Ives
One of the most important issues limiting our state's economy as a whole, and families and residents individually, is the issue of childcare.

The state of our economy is directly connected to the state of child care options for the work force. Though Massachusetts was one of the first states to form a dedicated Department of Early Education and Care, we are plagued by some of the highest costs in the country. Childcare is shockingly expensive and that has a whole set of related impacts on the economy. Relatedly, caregivers earn poverty wages, with a whole additional set of related impacts on the economy.

As such, the state of childcare in Massachusetts, like the rest of the nation, isn't working for anyone—not for families, nor for care providers.

The average cost for childcare in Massachusetts for full-time infant care is \$17,062 per year according to a survey of data by Child Care Aware of America. Child care costs are the most significant household expenses to a family. By federal standards, day care is affordable for less than one in every five Massachusetts families. The average cost of full-time care in child care centers for all children ages 0-4 in the United States is \$9,589 a year, higher than the average cost of in-state college tuition. In order to cover the cost of full time in-center care for one child, a family earning at the median household income would need to spend one-fifth of its income. For an individual earning the minimum wage, full time in-center care costs 64 percent of their earnings. In Massachusetts, full-time care is greater than 90 percent of the typical cost of rent. For most families, childcare is like paying a second mortgage every month. Child care is considered affordable if it costs no more than 7 percent of a family's income according to federal standards set by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The poor state of childcare and early education in Massachusetts means that families must calculate whether it makes sense for both parents to work, despite education, qualifications, professional interests or work responsibilities.

The math just doesn't work.

Additionally, on account of the hard work and low salary, qualified early education caregivers are hard to find, hard to keep, and often have to work second jobs. Daycare teachers' pay is grossly inadequate for the work and educational requirements needed. In 2015, the median wage for childcare workers in Massachusetts was \$12.01 per hour. Thirty-nine percent of the state's childcare workers are on public assistance because of the inadequate compensation and the state's high cost of living. As state subsidies for child care have lagged over the years, some early education centers can't afford to stay open or are admitting fewer children. Some Child Education and Care Centers offer tuition on a sliding scale, based on ability to pay, and then make up for that lost revenue through private donations and fundraising. However, that takes a lot of time and effort, is unpredictable, unreliable, and not directly related to their main mission of educating and caring for young children.

Despite the costs, about 69% of Massachusetts families with children under six years of age have both parents in the labor force, according to data provided by Strategies for Children. That means these young families have much less money available for emergency reserves and savings. That means it's that much harder for these families to save for a down payment to purchase a first home. It also means they have less disposable income available, which also negatively impacts state revenues.

At the State House, our responsibility is to address challenges related to our state's economy through our jurisdiction as legislators. The most powerful tool available to us is our authority to legislate and fund state budget priorities. We in the legislature must fight for more funding to support early education if we're truly committed to strengthening the state of our economy. Moreover, we must raise compensation for the professionals we entrust with some of our most vulnerable little residents. And, we need to offer free-tuition for those seeking early education degrees, so they at least won't be saddled with debt when they opt for these low-paying professional paths.

CHILD CARE: PAGE 21



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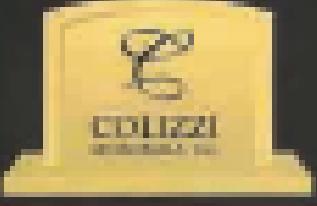
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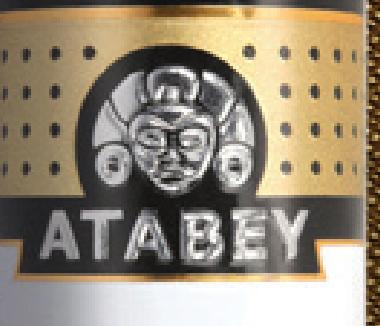
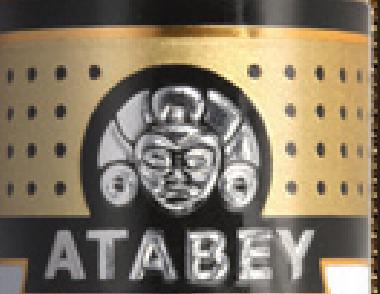
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ACADIA INSURANCE: FROM PAGE 4



Salem NH man Michael Demers (left) listens as Attorney Michelle Kenney first tries to have a reporter removed from a public trial, then asks a judge to order Mr. Demers not to exercise his right of free speech by using or manipulating the images taken by The Valley Patriot during the trial. The Judge was having none of it.

pages.

DUGGAN RESPONDS

"First of all," Valley Patriot publisher Tom Duggan said on his podcast program, "Mr. Demers was not my friend in high school, she probably got that from half listening to my show. But we discussed this on the air. Mike Demers was not my friend in high school. Mike Demers used to beat me up in high school. In fact, Mike Demers is largely the reason I transferred out of the Vocational School to Lawrence High. He used to stick me in a locker and spit at me. So, the notion that we are only covering this story to help my 'high school friend' was nothing more than an excuse to head off the bad press they are going to get by trying to strip away the First Amendment rights of Mr. Demers. In fact, because I did know Mr. Demers in high school, I purposely chose not to attend the trial and sent someone else to get photos and video (which you can find on YouTube) to make sure I did not become a distraction or issue during the trial. Somehow, they tried anyway. But it really goes to show you what Acadia Insurance thinks about the right of the free press or the free speech. That action alone should send a signal to the judge that Acadia will do anything to silence any bad press. That action alone says to First Amendment advocates, like me, that they don't deserve to win against Mr. Demers."

JUDGE REJECTS ACADIA'S EFFORTS TO VIOLATE FIRST AMENDMENT

"What we are asking," Attorney Michele Kenney told the judge. "is for the defendant to be enjoined from using or manipulating any photographic depictions that are taken here today. That's our concern. We don't wish to enjoin the freedom of the press."

The judge rejected Acadia's efforts.

"As to the objecting of the press person

being present that's a whole separate issue," the judge told Attorney Kenney. "I don't think there is any [legitimate] objection to that, and I'm not going to issue an injunction to deter future behavior [of Mr. Demers]. I'm going to rule what is before me, and if there's an issue after my ruling then I will address it at that time."

DEMERS SAYS THE BOYCOTT WILL CONTINUE

"While they are trying to silence me in court, they look to have a reporter thrown out because they want to cover up what they are doing to me. Then she [Attorney Kenney] says she doesn't want to violate the reporter's rights, no no. She wanted to violate my rights by asking the court to issue what's called prior restraint against what I 'might say or do' in the future. That's what Acadia thinks about our rights."

"If they get away with silencing me on this thing here, anyone who wants to boycott a million dollar corporation or blow the whistle on their misdeeds so to speak, could be silenced. Boom. Done. You have no right to complain as long as they can afford expensive lawyers and twist the law against people who don't know any better."

DUGGAN WAS LESS KIND

"Michele Kenney should turn in her bar card. She knows what prior restraint is. She knows what the First Amendment is. But she's going to do whatever it takes, even if that means violating the First Amendment to help her client run over this guy. First she tried to have our reporter thrown out, then she denied what she had just said seconds earlier. This is why people hate lawyers."

The trial continues through March.

For more background on the Acadia vs. Demers suit visit: valleypatriot.com/acadia-insurance-company-sues-nh-man-for-libel-over-boycott

Mass. DOR Not Making Child Support Payments Claims of "Glitch" in Garnishing Unemployment Wages

Methuen State Representative Diana DiZoglio says she wants to get to the bottom of why the Massachusetts Department of Revenue (DOR) failed to make child support payments to a secret number of children in the state for more than four weeks.

DiZoglio says she heard from a constituent in North Andover, Alexis Kelly, who complained about DOR not sending the payments she needs to care for her three children.

North Andover resident, Alexis Kelly hasn't had a child support payment for more than four weeks.

"Both myself and another woman both have orders against Sean Kelly," Alexis told The Valley Patriot.

"Her order is for \$300 weekly, mine is for \$400 weekly (she has one child, I have 3). Yet, on January 23rd we were both notified of pending child support payments from his unemployment."

Kelly says that both she and Mr. Kelly's first wife each received \$220 and \$160 for three weeks in total on January 23rd.

"As of January 24th, Mr. Kelly advised me that he was working with a 'big wig' at DOR who was 'helping' him with the wrongful child support guidelines," she said.

But, Mrs. Kelly says she contacted DOR and was told that there was a "glitch" in the system which has prevented them from garnishing child support payments from unemployment wages.

"That's just not acceptable," Kelly said.

"I have three mouths to feed. What do I tell my kids? 'Sorry I can't buy groceries DOR has a glitch in their system?'"

- For her part, State Rep. DiZoglio says she contacted DOR about the matter and that while DOR vaguely admitted having a problem making child support payments, their response gave "zero details about how long this has been going on, how many children are affected, how much this is costing the state," DiZoglio said.

"We have had some issues with our intercept program with the Department of Unemployment Assistance that we have been addressing," A DOR spokesman told DiZoglio.

"The issues resulted in a relatively small number of cases where the payments we intercepted are being held until we review the cases and resolve them individually. We are working through these cases and trying to get the payments out to custodial parents as soon as we can."

"I really want to know who is responsible for this, how did this happen, and how long it's going to take to get resolved. Nothing in their statement addresses any of that," DiZoglio told The Valley Patriot.

"Their answer was sorely lacking in detail."

DiZoglio sent a follow up email Mon-



day asking DOR officials to turn over relevant information about why some children are and have been denied needed child support payments, and how it happened.

"Thank you for acknowledging that there is an issue," DiZoglio wrote, "however, I would like more information to understand how your agency is addressing this matter. I would like to know exactly how many cases amounts to 'a relatively small number' and want to know exactly how this issue is being addressed. These children depend daily on support of parents who are court-ordered to contribute financially to their well-being."

I would greatly appreciate a response from your agency to the following 4 specific questions.

Exactly how many cases are there?

What exactly is being done to address the issue?

When exactly can we expect this issue to be resolved?

Who exactly is responsible for overseeing this operation?"

"For many families, even one missed child support payment could translate into lack of basic necessities such as food, clothing and medicine. It's unacceptable that these payments are not making their way through to children in need due to a glitch in the system of any kind. This issue should be top priority and resolved as quickly as humanly possible."

"I'm glad Representative DiZoglio is on top of this but in the meantime what do I tell my kids? How do I pay my bills?" Alexis Kelly asked. "And how long are my kids going to have to wait?"

"I'm working on it," DiZoglio assured The Valley Patriot.

"And if there are any other custodial parents out there being affected by this I want to hear from them. I want to know what's going on here so we can fix the problem."

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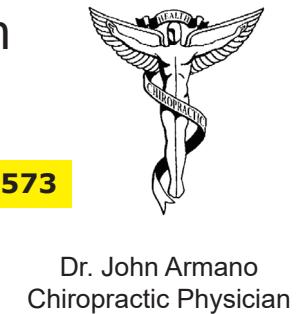
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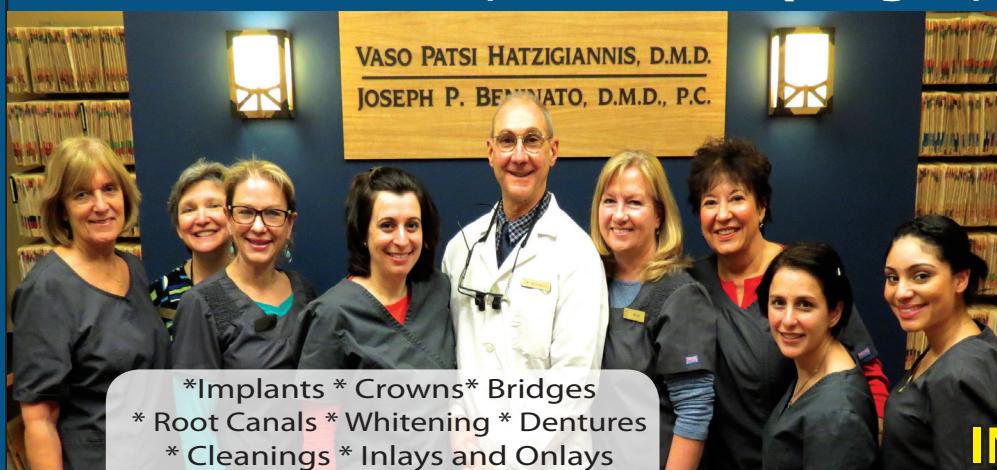
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YE GAY OL'E VALLEY

School Shootings: An Epidemic

Dani B. Langevin

VALLEY PATRIOT LESBIAN COLUMNIST

I wrote this column in The Valley Patriot five years ago and nothing has changed. The talk has been cheap and the rhetoric ridiculous. Change needs to happen or there will be no one left to make it.

In 1927, fifty-five year old Andrew Kehoe, school board treasurer in Bath, Michigan, shot his wife, firebombed his own barn then set off a bomb at the Bath Consolidated School killing thirty-eight school children, six adults and injuring fifty-eight others. It was and still remains the deadliest act against an American school in the history of the U.S. There would not be another attack on an American school until 1966 when twenty-five year old Charles Whitman, an engineering student, climbed a clock tower at the University of Texas and began shooting a high powered rifle. In the next hour and a half, Whitman would shoot forty-nine people, killing seventeen before he was shot multiple times and killed by Texas authorities.

Between the Texas University Massacre in 1966 and 2005 there would be, on average, 1.7 school shootings per year with an average of 1.9 deaths in schools across our great nation. Twelve of those thirty-nine years would see no school shootings at all. From 1990 on, the United States would not see another year pass without a school being assaulted by a gunman. That would make twenty-three solid years where our children and their teachers have not been safe in our schools.

Although the above statement is true, something changed after 2005. That would be the last year that school/mass shootings would number under three and deaths under six. If we average the shootings and deaths over the past 13 years we would see about 22 shootings and over 112 deaths per year.

As a social studies teacher of young teenagers I make it a point to discuss headline news with them. Inevitably our conversations are about the rash of school shootings that plague our nation all too often. It's a slippery slope and a very shaky tight rope I walk upon when these discussions emerge. Thirteen and fourteen year olds have more information directly at their fingertips than ever before. And, though they may not be able to conjugate a sentence or solve the latest algebraic equation, they are no dummies. They hear, see and feel everything that's going on in the world around them and it

frightens them. It's very difficult to quell their fears and concerns about the rising school violence when I can hardly do the same for myself. I bring up the number of schools that exist in our country and state along with the number of students that go to school across our nation on any given day and hope that they believe statistically we are safe within our building. I'm not sure how convincing I am.

With every school shooting, we hear stories of uncommon valor and acts of selfless heroism. Teachers shield students with their own bodies, hurry them to safety while jeopardizing their own and place themselves between the assailant and the children they were asked to teach not to save. Gone is the old-fashioned school marm that would scream at the rubber snake placed strategically in the top drawer of her desk. Unfortunately, there are countless parents today who can thank a heroic teacher that their child is alive.

Teachers are now placing their lives on the line every day they step into the classroom. Five years ago, when I wrote this column, the National Education Association polled 3,000 teachers across America. Half reported being harassed by students at school. Others revealed theft and property damage. One quarter admitted to being victims of physical attacks which include but are not limited to being hit, kicked, bitten, slapped, stabbed or shot. More recently, according to the American Psychological Association, 80% teachers reported being victimized within the last year. There is no rational explanation to this rise in violence, but it goes without saying that this is not your grandmother's job anymore.

Teaching is not a career for the faint of heart. To our students we are not just educators. By necessity we have taken on the roles of surrogate parents, therapists, make shift medical responders, nurses, mediators, policemen, and bulletproof vests and that is only scratching the surface. Teachers have evolved into something that would be unrecognizable by one from even just twenty years ago. We have dedicated our lives to making the lives of your children the best that they can be and we are now lying down our own to do it.

Can someone tell me why, in the 5 years that has passed since writing this column, nothing is being done to save our teachers, citizens, and children?

You can email Dani at dblangevin@aol.com

CULTURE WAR

BENEATH THE SURFACE

“He’s in a Better Place Now”

Paul Murano

VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

We all know secular materialism has dominated the media and academia for the past half century or so. This is the philosophy that believes matter is all there is. There is no mind, no soul, no spirit, no God. Yet, despite this belief, this “progressive” mindset is wrought with inconsistencies. Today we explore one of them: Why do materialists, upon hearing someone has died, respond with phrases like, “He’s in a better place now,” or “He is no longer suffering”? You never hear them say, “I’m sorry that John has been annihilated and no longer exists.” Yet, this last statement is the only one that is consistent with what they claim to believe. Why the contradiction?

Some might say it's just a polite social convention. Perhaps, but why repeat conventions that are believed to be lies? This comfort with contradiction, very common to progressive ideology, is rather bewildering. “I’m sorry” would be sufficient, if being nice is the goal.

Before we go beneath the surface on why people with a materialist philosophy commonly contradict themselves with these common statements, let us take a closer look at the two statements. First, “He’s in a better place now.” How do we know? To the materialist the deceased person is nowhere. Non-existent. There’s no ‘place’ with non-existence. Secondly, “He is no longer suffering.” Think about that statement for a moment. It is nonsensical. For a person to be no longer suffering there must be a person who is not suffering. However, as just noted, according to the materialist, no vestiges of the person remain after death. They no longer exist. Therefore, while you could logically say the suffering has ceased, it is impossible and nonsensical to claim a non-existent person is now free of suffering.

Why do materialists make these statements when it contradicts their own philosophy? Perhaps this is due to an unacknowledged truth known deep in each

person's subconscious mind that human souls are spiritual and immortal and survive bodily death. Perhaps it indicates an intuitive knowledge that while death in itself is a tragedy, persons are not annihilated by it. Every people and culture on earth since the creation of cave paintings has manifested this intuitive knowledge in their beliefs and practices.

Now let's look at the two statements from a Christian perspective. First, while the Christian holds onto the mercy of God, it is impossible to know that the deceased is now in a better place. There are two ‘places’ in which persons can spend an eternity, and we are not privy to the information needed to make a judgment on any individual. Second, the statement, “He is no longer suffering” may be true, but there remains the possibility that he is suffering even much more than he did on earth. If one does not die in the state of grace, one spends an eternity alienated from the Source of all life and love. This is an essential truth about the misery of hell. A disembodied soul might be in a better place, but he could also be in a much worse one.

Consistency in language and thought is important. Sometimes, though, inconsistency can be a tell tale sign of what a person really believes deep inside. Man is a body-soul composite, both physical and spiritual, created to be united with God for all eternity in never-ending bliss. How we freely choose to respond to His invitation for which we are made is up to each individual. So while we hope and pray that a person who has died is in a better place and is no longer suffering, only God knows for sure the eternal destiny we have chosen for ourselves.

Paul Murano teaches ethics & philosophy at Rivier University and North Shore Community College, and hosts Beneath the Surface radio show on WCAP in Lowell. He has masters degrees in philosophy and theology, a doctorate in marital theology, and is certified in bioethics. He founded Heartbeat Pregnancy Help in Burlington, and is a singer-songwriter-musician. E-mail Paul at PJDM@aol.com



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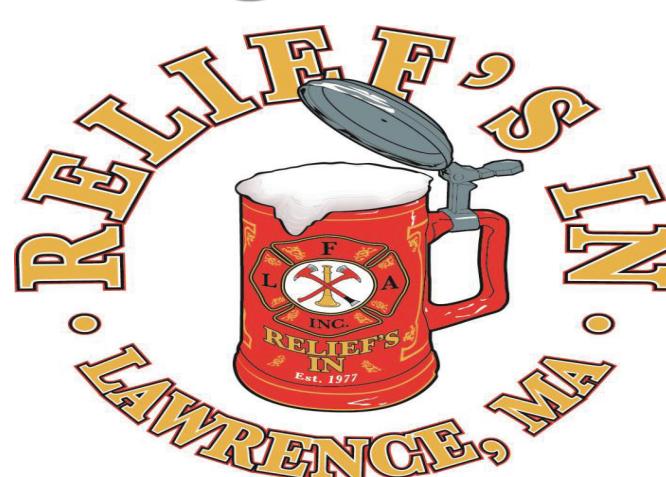
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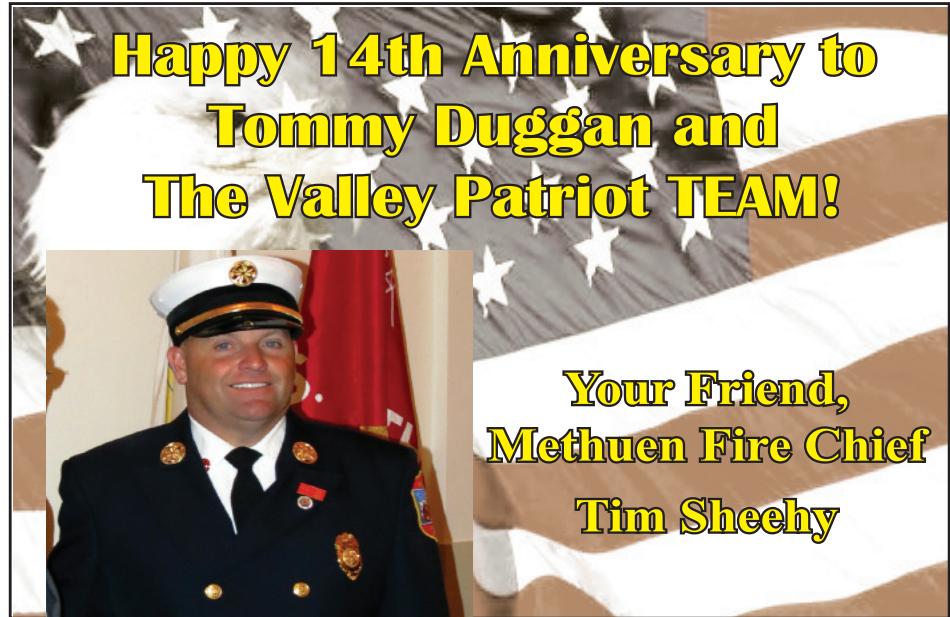
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Diana

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Supporters of the Corrupt Swamp Resent Hearing About Corruption (#theyallknow)

Bharani Padmanabhan, MD, PhD
MEDICAL CORRUPTION COLUMNIST

I've wondered about the clerical staff at our courthouses who see shady briefs pass through their hands and witness judges issue corrupt decisions every day. And I figured they keep quiet because they are afraid of losing their pensions. Not one leak to the press.

It's the silence of the other folks who don't have to fear for their jobs that is remarkable, like the Bar Counsel, the Judicial Conduct Commission, the Massachusetts Bar Association and of course the folks who write emotional pieces in the Globe on permitted topics that masquerade as informed journalism.

Last month I wrote about Maura Healey breaking a major law to help her friend Loretta Cooke. Maura stole money from the Treasury when she did that. Her office continues to steal tax dollars to defend Loretta in court in violation of state law. And this isn't some piddling little law; it goes to the heart of state sovereignty and the right of the taxpayers to not pay for crimes committed by Maura's friends.

But try telling that to the Supreme Court's Bar Counsel, who allegedly police the state's lawyers. Assistant Bar Counsel Meagher claimed stealing from the Treasury was okay because a judge agreed with Maura, and tossed my complaint. I sent it back, with a copy to all the Bar Counsel, reminding them that breaking a major law to steal money meant Maura must be disbarred. Silence ensues.

I then informed the Bar Association that Maura broke a major law and stole from the Treasury. Their Vice President, Denise Murphy from Rubin & Rudman, responded by blocking further emails from me.

On her firm's gushing profile, Attorney Murphy touts the fact that she is the Vice President of the Mass Bar. Clients are meant to be impressed that they will be paying for someone of substance. But that seems to be the sole purpose of Attorney Murphy's association with the Mass Bar. If Murphy cared even an iota about maintaining the integrity of her profession she would not have made clear that she did not want to know about Maura's crimes so she did not have to do anything about it.

I informed Mass Bar's President and their General Counsel Martin Healy about their VP's refusal to even hear about corruption and offered to include their response in this column. As Tom Duggan likes to say, crickets.

Maura then arranged for her favorite judge to muscle in on the RICO case in which she and Loretta are co-defendants. Judge Gorton barged in to save Maura from certain doom. I petitioned the 1st

Circuit Court of Appeals to stop Judge Gorton from replacing the real judge. The court threw out my petition and also sealed it so the public can't read what they denied.

The corrupt swamp takes care of its own.

The total lack of response from Karyn Polito, Charlie Baker, Robert DeLeo and Harriet Chandler is equally fascinating. It isn't every day that someone repeatedly informs them that the Attorney General stole money from the Treasury.

I asked the Globe's Scot Lehigh when he would call for Baker, Polito and DeLeo to talk about Maura stealing from the Treasury. Scot's exact words: "Don't be a zealot, Bharani. These times demand intelligent, rational people. Oh for God's sakes, don't be dumb." To loyal swamp stenographers, opposing corruption is irrational and dumb.

To me their total silence regarding Turtleboy's blockbuster revelations is stunning too.

In just a few months, Turtleboy has managed to force four senior State Police leaders to flee the barracks, exposed the swamp called Joe Early's office and Worcester District Court, followed by forcing the State Police to suspend a person who helped sell 1,000 kilos of weed and then became a Trooper as a Lt. Colonel's girlfriend.

Turtleboy also revealed that Colonel Marian McGovern enjoys the CrossFit Challenge, after obtaining a tax-free pension by claiming heart disease. We've brought this to the attention of Inspector General Glenn Cunha but the chance of Cunha opposing corruption is zero.

Turtleboy has more integrity than the Governor, the Inspector General, the Attorney General, the State Auditor, the Bar Counsel, the Bar Association and the Globe's Lehigh put together and has done the taxpayers of Massachusetts a great service by exposing the swamp. Little wonder then that Turtleboy is a shoo-in for this year's Valley Patriot First Amendment Award.

When it comes to clear evidence of corruption, the reptiles running this swamp don't want to hear about it from "dumb" "truth vigilantes", just like the SEC blew off warnings about Madoff for 10 years. That way they don't have to stop crime and can continue to be "intelligent, rational" posturing frauds who support corruption and crime.

Bharani Padmanabhan MD PhD is a multiple sclerosis neurologist. On July 12, 2017 the state medical board stole his license because he reported Medicaid fraud to the government. scleroplex@gmail.com

SCHOOLS: FROM 2

ing. This is a good start. At a cost though of \$600,000, and more importantly the fact that this system does not really make us safer, I am proposing a much less costly and more efficient alternative.

The states of Texas and Colorado allow properly trained teacher and administrator volunteers to carry weapons of school property and act as school marshals to ensure the safety of students and staff in school buildings. These school marshals are volunteers who receive a small stipend for acting in this role just as many club advisers and coaches do now. President Trump has called on states nationwide to adopt a similar model and I agree with the President. So, I propose that the Massachusetts Legislature eliminate the "Gun Free Zone" laws in the Commonwealth to allow for the creation of school marshals in Massachusetts.

Hospitals have armed security, banks have armed security, large corporations have armed security, amusement parks have armed security, why not our schools? Methuen Public Schools is truly fortunate to have armed police officers in every one of our school buildings, but many school districts statewide do not

have this benefit. Massachusetts school marshals could at least be permitted to carry tasers, if not firearms, in order to paralyze and disarm a potential intruder. There's only one problem with this: tasers are illegal to have in Massachusetts, except for the police. What a stupid law! The Massachusetts Legislature should repeal the ban on tasers by civilians and allow those who are properly licensed and trained to legally acquire them as other states, including New Hampshire, currently do. Only then will our school buildings be made safe and secure from those who would do harm to our children.

D.J. Deeb is a Methuen resident and is Secretary of the Methuen School Committee. Deeb is an Adjunct Professor of History/Government at Bunker Hill Community College and an Adjunct Political Science Instructor at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. Deeb also serves as Social Studies Department Chair at Notre Dame High School in Lawrence, Massachusetts. He is the author of Israel, Palestine, and the Quest for Middle East Peace (University Press, 2013) and The Collapse of Middle East Peace (IUniverse, 2003).



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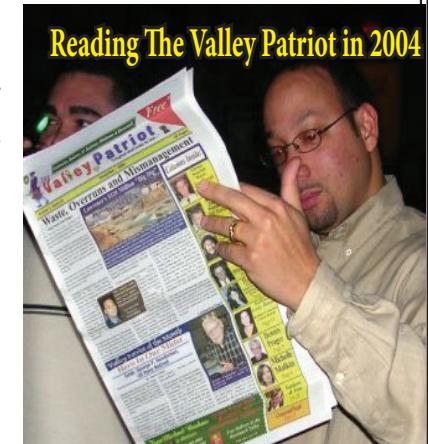
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Long before I ever ran for office I was a loyal reader of The Valley Patriot. As the Lawrence City Council President, and now a State Representative, I find it vital to keeping up with what's going on in my district. Tommy, Ralph and Chuck, Congratulations on hitting yet another milestone, your 14TH ANNIVERSARY! Here's hoping for many more!



HAPPY 14TH ANNIVERSARY!

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NOTEBOOK: FROM 7

should attend this event every year. That's why I gave the very first Officer Tom Duggan Public Safety Award to Scott Emerson in 2012. Because of Scott and everyone at Wheelabrator, police officers, firefighters and EMTs in Lawrence, Andover, and North Andover are honored for their seemingly thankless work. But, I also gave the very first Officer Tom Duggan Award to Mr. Emerson because it was this yearly event which inspired me to design our annual BASH the way we do.

ELECTED OFFICIALS MUST BE GIVEN A CORI CHECK

Do you think it's a good idea for the School Committee members in your community to be able to walk through your schools without having a CORI done first? You would be surprised, or maybe not, that many of the communities in our coverage area do not CORI elected officials before letting them into public school buildings. In the coming months, I plan on focusing on this issue a little more in depth. If an elected official has a restraining order or something else in their past that would suggest they shouldn't be walking into a school, shouldn't the schools know about that? School safety is not something that can be ignored anymore. In the age of school shooters, we need to give school administrators every tool we can to make sure someone doesn't slip under the radar screen, even if they are an elected official.

LABORERS UNIONS ENDORSE KOH FOR CONGRESS

Laborers Local 175 and 609 both endorsed Dan Koh this month in the 3rd District Congressional race. Local 175, based

out of Methuen, represents more than 1,000 members and Local 609 represents over 500 members. In total, Koh has received endorsements from seven unions, more than any other candidate. Koh has also been endorsed by IBEW Local 96, IUEC Local 4, Laborers Local 88, Building Wreckers Local 1421, and Operating Engineers Local 4. "Our members know that Dan will stand up for workers," said Business Manager of Local 175 Michael Gagliardi. "Dan has a detailed plan to create jobs and raise wages throughout the Third District. He will work to build an economy where everyone can get ahead."

"I am grateful to have Local 175 and Local 609's support," said Koh. "These two unions work every day to protect workers' rights and expand economic opportunity. The Laborers' apprenticeship program helps provide a pathway to a good-paying job in the construction industry. As Congressman, I will work with local officials, unions, schools, and businesses to scale and expand successful programs that bridge the skills gap."

SALISBURY LEARNS NOTHING FROM THESE MASSIVE STORMS

Periodically, this region is hit hard with a winter storm and it reminds us all how unpredictable the ocean is in places like Salisbury Beach. But that doesn't stop the bobbleheads on the board of selectmen from continually approving more structures right on the ocean. The boardwalk to nowhere almost became the raft to nowhere with this last storm and all those new condos they are trying to build on the beach are not going to fare any better.

Congratulations Valley Patriot

on your 14th Anniversary!

We cannot wait till this month's BASH!

LENNY MIRRA
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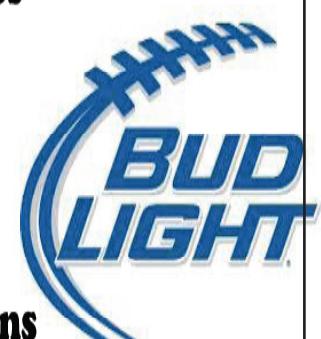


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When Working Out Is Just Not Enough

Rick Bellanti

VALLEY PATRIOT CONTRIBUTOR

Here we are into our third month of the year and hopefully your New Year's resolution to get healthy is still going strong. If your weight loss has slowed down a bit, it's normal. Remember it's not about just working out. You have to take a look at what you're eating; it really is the most important part of any health and wellness program and there are a couple of quotes that come to mind: "You cannot out train your diet" and also "Abs are made in the kitchen". Food consumption has a larger impact on your wellness goals more than working out does if you are trying to lose weight. Think of it as the new 80/20 program.

When you are trying to get healthy and lose weight, what you do in the kitchen with your meals has 80% influence over your weight loss success and the other 20% would be your workout routine. For example: You want flat abs? Everyone has abdominal muscles (abs), they are just covered by a layer of fat in most people. What you need to do is get your body fat percentage down low enough to reveal them and it's not by doing hundreds of sit-ups anymore, it's by getting the proper nutrition in your system. Your abs are really made in the kitchen not in the gym.

Keep a daily log as a Food Diary and a Physical Activity Diary. While exercise will help with weight loss, most people will tend to overestimate the amount of calories they burned while working out and then adjust for what they think they burned off exercising and then eat more than they should in return. Also, some people will underestimate what they are taking in for calories when eating and then

overeat throughout the day. Keeping a log of what you're taking in for calories each day will help you stay on track. You can always go back and look at your records if you are not seeing progress and find out what needs to be adjusted.

Everybody is unique and may have different caloric needs and a healthy lifestyle requires balance, in the foods you eat, and in the amount of physical activity or exercise you include in your daily routine. While counting calories is not necessary, it may help you in the beginning to gain an awareness of your eating habits as you strive to achieve the balance. The ultimate test of the balance is whether or not you are losing weight and making progress.

For better results it's always best to incorporate both, healthy eating and working out into your wellness routine. I didn't start working out until I was into my sixth month of my weight loss and wellness journey and I started out by just walking. It wasn't until my seventh month that I started to workout out and build lean muscle.

Building lean muscle in your body also helps burn fat and is highly recommended when you start to get near your goal weight and to help push you through any plateaus you might have. Remember whichever you choose stay hydrated with lots of water, start a Food Diary and a Physical Activity Diary, even if it's a short walk for thirty minutes daily.

Rick Bellanti is a wellness columnist and is on a journey himself to lose 240lbs, and has lost 140lbs since the start of 2015. If you have any questions or comments, please post them to his Getting Healthy with Rick Bellanti Facebook page and once a month he will address a few of the topics here.

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IN THE GROOVE with Cindy Annis

Sam Cooke PART I

Cindy Annis

VALLEY PATRIOT VINYL COLUMNIST

I hope you enjoyed Buddy Holly last month. Now that he is done I can start thinking about "The Day the Music Died!" This month, however, we shall all learn together about the incomparable Sam Cooke.

Sam was born back in January of 1931, in Clarksdale, Mississippi. His dad was a minister, and his mom was Annie Mae Cook. He had seven brothers and sisters, and some of them had talent, too. His younger brother, for instance, was in the Doo-Wop group called Johnny Keys and the Magnificents. When Sam was 2 years old they all moved to Chicago, Illinois. Sam went to the same high school that Nat King Cole went to, just a few years before Sam.

Sam and his brothers and sisters sang together when they were kids and they were known as the "Singing Children." He was about six years old then. He got into a real group when he was about 14 years old. He was the lead singer for "The QC's. This was about the same time he became friends with Lou Rawls. Sam sang in a gospel group and Lou was singing in a revival gospel group.

R. H. Harris had a gospel group called the "Soul Stirrers. In 1950, Sam took over the lead singer's spot and R. H. Harris got them signed to Specialty Records. Sam had his first recording as lead singer of the group in 1951, with the song, "Jesus Gave Me Water." They recorded a bunch of gospel songs with the label. Many that Sam himself wrote. It was because of Sam that the young crowd was getting into gospel, also. It seemed that the more that Sam sang gospel, the more the crowds grew. Mainly because the young girls wanted to get a good look at the lead singer. So, Sam was on his way!

Sam hung around the gospel kind of music and groups for a few years, but in 1956, things started changing up a little bit for him. Sam wanted to start crossing over into some Pop music. His first attempt at this was "Loveable." Now, this was a remake from one of the gospel songs he liked singing. But, because sing pop and rock music was a real no, no back then, Sam released this under the name of Dale Cook. He hoped he could pull a fast one on his fans. They weren't fooled for an instant.

Art Rupe let Sam know it was alright for him to record this kind of music under his real name, but Sam and his producer, Bumps Blackwell didn't want to do stuff like that of Little Richard. They were working on softer stuff. Rupe interrupted one such recording session and lost his cool, and Blackwell and Sam left Specialty Records.

Sam was invited to appear on "The Guy Mitchell Show". He also signed onto Keen Records. Sam felt like this was kind of like a new beginning. So, in 1957, Sam added the "E" to his name and from then on it was Sam Cooke. "You Send Me" was Cooke's first hit. It stayed at #1 for six weeks on the Billboard's R&B Charts, and three weeks on their Pop Charts, and this was the B-side of "Summertime." From 1957 till 1961, Cooke had a bunch of hits from crossover to pure rock. Songs like "I'll Come Running Back To You," and "I Love You (For Sentimental Reasons)," in 1957, "You Were Made For Me," and "Blue Moon," in 1958, and "Everybody Loves To Cha Cha Cha," and "Only Sixteen," in 1959, "Chain Gang," and "Sad Mood," in 1960, and "Cupid," in 1961 were his bread and butter. He was one of many artists of the times that concentrated on singles. The 45rpm was what the kids wanted to buy. Even though he did mostly singles, he did have a few albums. In 1963 he released, "Night Beat." This was eaten up by blues lovers, and it ran up the charts. In 1964, he released his most popular album called, "Ain't That Good News," which had 5 singles on it, as well. He did well on the charts and drew great crowds at concerts. In 1961, he also got his own record label up and running. SAR Records was that label, and there was a line of artists waiting for their turn to sign with him. Groups like The Simms Twins, and The Valentinos.

The Valentinos were Bobby Womack and his brothers. Bobby Womack also recorded with Johnnie Taylor on SAR Records.

NEXT MONTH COOKE STARTS THE KAGS!

Catch Sam's music on Cindy's Vinyl Vault. We play the best music ever recorded on vinyl. We're at 980 WCAP Radio every Sunday night at 10pm, Monday night, 11pm Wednesday night at 10pm, and remember folks, it's not how old it is, but how great it sounds!

TV TALK WITH BILL CUSHING



Fox's 9-1-1: Not Perfect But Wildly Entertaining

Bill Cushing

VALLEY PATRIOT TV COLUMNIST

At first glance, the previews for Fox's new procedural series '9-1-1' may have appeared that it was going to be just like any other police/firefighter/first responder drama. Don't get me wrong, there are some aspects of the show that are familiar. If you're a child of the 70s, you'll remember shows like 'Emergency!' or 'Adam-12.'

'9-1-1' will remind you of those series in some ways. All of these shows have episodes that cover multiple cases and calls that the characters cover, and then they'll have episodes that center on one case for the entire hour. What differentiates '9-1-1' from those earlier series is that this series delves more into the personal lives of the characters. Showing what makes them tick, what makes them who they are.

'9-1-1' comes from the creators of 'American Horror Story' & 'Glee', Ryan Murphy and Brad Falchuk. They've become known for their crazy plot twists and their willingness to take their stories to just about anywhere. That makes it all the more surprising that they would create a procedural drama about first responders.

This series has 2 things going for it. The first is the wildly entertaining situations that the characters respond to in each episode, such as a baby flushed down the toilet and being stuck in the pipes in a wall. A man falling out of a rollercoaster because he was too heavy to completely close the safety bar. A dad and his son getting blown away when the bouncy house they are in comes loose from the restraints and floats off in the heavy wind. A girl's massive pet snake has wrapped itself around her neck and is choking her to death.

The second thing is the top notch cast. The cast in '9-1-1' feature actors coming from a long line of great TV series and movies. Peter Krause, who plays LA firefighter Capt. Bobby Nash, is a multiple Emmy nominated actor from series like 'Six Feet Under' & 'Parenthood.' Angela Bassett, who plays LAPD Sgt. Athena Grant, is an Oscar nominee for her role as Tina Turner in 'What's Love Got To

Do With It.' Connie Britton, who plays 9-1-1 operator Abby Clark, is a multiple Emmy nominee from her work in 'Friday Night Lights,' 'American Horror Story,' & 'Nashville.'

Where the show needs to improve is with some of the sillier melodramatic personal storylines. The most glaring and annoying one deals with Abby and her relationship with firefighter Evan 'Buck' Buckley. Abby meets Buck while dealing with him over the phone during an emergency, and their relationship continues as strictly a phone relationship for a while before they actually meet. The storyline feels forced and the two characters are clearly a mismatch. Abby would be better suited with Captain Nash, and that might be where the story is headed.

The storylines aren't all bad, however. Some of them are quite interesting and well written. Captain Nash has a troubled past family life and personal demons that sometimes interfere with his work and personal friendships. Abby lives with and takes care of her mom who is suffering from Alzheimer's. Athena is trying to keep her family together; her marriage is suffering after her husband has revealed to her that he is gay and is in a relationship with another man.

While the personal storylines are interesting, the good thing is that they have not gotten in the way of the exciting rescues and action sequences that are the show's bread and butter.

So far, 9-1-1 has thrived on being unpredictable and viewers have responded. The show has already been renewed for a second season. All in all, '9-1-1' is worth your time. Give it a look.

'9-1-1' airs Wednesdays at 9 p.m. on FOX.



Do you have any questions about TV? Email me at BillsT-VTalk@gmail.com. I will answer all of your questions and will feature some of the questions I receive in a future column. For daily TV news, follow me on Twitter @BillsT-VTalk and on Facebook at BillsT-VTalk.

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123 Tewksbury St. Andover LLC, A & M Roofing Properties LLC, 123 Tewksbury St., \$2,212,500.00

Jeffrey & Rachel Hemman, Stephen & Amanda Twomey, 9 Golden Oaks Ln., \$710,000.00

Thomas Burns, Douglas Parigan, 2 Sevilla Rd., \$642,500.00

Thomas Burns, Emily Iarocci, 2 Sevilla Rd.,

Pulte Homes of New England LLC, Roberta See, 1 Francis Dr. Unit 1212, \$106,000.00

David & Adam St. Jean, Colleen, Glen-non & Margaret Ogrady, 144 Summer St., \$535,000.00

Pulte Homes of New England LLC, Marguerite Murphy, 1 Francis Dr. Unit 211, \$401,730.00

Viney Qazi, Valerie Colletta, 237 North Main St. Unit 1, \$185,500.00

Michael & Maria Orloff / Ortloff Revoca-ble Trust, Noureddine Hawat, 36 Oriole Dr., \$1,050,000.00

James Oliver, Daniel Kowalski, 354 North Main St. Unit 303, \$120,000.00

Thomas & Mary Hartwell / Hatrwell 2015 Family Trust, Jennifer Martin, 12 Dean Cir., \$450,000.00

Howard Arnold, Cheryl Foster, 22 Railroad St. Unit 111, \$280,000.00

Lois Matton, Richard Barton & Joyce La-belle, 383 South Main St., \$341,000.00

Veronica Pennick, David & Adele Conlon, 16 Balmoral St. Unit 110, \$275,000.00

Pulte Homes of New England LLC, John & Patricia Amboian / P&J Realty Trust, 1 Francis Dr. Unit 307, \$528,490.00

NE Home Realty Group LLC, Daniel Chase, 73 River St., \$421,500.00

69 North St. LLC, David Smith, 10 Board-walk Dr. Unit 10, \$569,900.00

George Hughes, Thomas & Yaralia Kelle-her, 3 Sorrento Cir., \$749,900.00

Reilly Realty Trust, Bossieux Living Trust, 6 Powers Rd., \$1,300,000.00

James & Sarah Bossieux, Cheryl Crawford, 25 Abbot Bridge Dr., \$623,150.00

Pulte Homes of New England LLC, Robert & Janis Pacheco, 1 Francis Dr. Unit 1310, \$465,000.00

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Arthur Lyons, Donna Pare, 354 North Main St. Unit 306, \$211,000.00

Colonial Dr. Corp., Donna Pare, 2 Colonial Dr. Unit 10A, \$201,000.00

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Israel Reyes & Patricia Sanchez-Reyes, Juan Diaz Vargas, 43 Farnham St., \$150,000.00

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Wanda Navarro, Carlos Quezada, 185 Water St., \$182,000.00

Daher Group Inc, Ismail Mugabi Katende, 15-17 Gale St., \$436,000.00

Richard J. Barrett, Michel Pelletier, 134 Newton St., \$65,000.00

Maria Schroeder, DCD Group Essex LLC, 187-189 Essex St., \$300,000.00

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Vargas, 8 West Beacon St., \$295,000.00

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David Broadhurst, Patagonia Realty Co. LLC, 90 Beacon St. Unit 5, \$118,500.00

Danh & Anne Dang, Victor Colon, 113-115 Cambridge St., \$449,000.00

Ramon Garcia & Stephanie Diaz, Jose Fernandes & Yamara Silva, 7 Wedgewood Rd. Unit 7, \$210,000.00

Ramon & Zeneida Batista, Maria Nunez, 28-30 Clarke St., \$440,000.00

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JP Realty Trust & James Peters, JE En-terprise Inc., 138 West St. 140 West St. 142 West St., \$750,000.00

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Luis Velazquez, Scarlet Adames, 11 Law-rence St. Unit 510, \$45,000.00

BCAD LLC, Bernarda Cardenes, 40-42 Perry Avenue, \$230,000.00

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Yanira Merced & Wanda Morillo, US Bank Trust NA TR, 21 Crescent St. Unit 3, \$95,861.30

US Bank NA TR, Jugal Sharma, 8 Melrose St., \$85,000.00

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German Perez, 29 Oakwood Avenue,

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Yraina Fermin, Juan Acevedo, 51 Tewks-bury St., \$289,000.00

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Samuel Maisonet & Mahir Gomez, Aris-leyda Diaz, 105 Tremont St.,

Freddy Grullon, Patricia Pepin-Lopez, & Yraida Lopez, Paulin Kamuangu, 15 Pleasant Place, \$260,000.00

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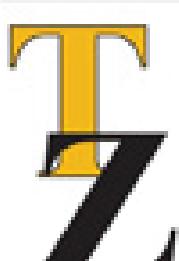
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 Sven Amirian, Estefania Tamayo, 945 Riverside Dr. Unit A, \$175,000.00
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 Diane Seavey, James Oakman, 47 Deboarh

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 Timothy Barnes & Prospect Realty Trust, Mark Kazanjian, 580 Prospect St., \$330,000.00
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 Maria Furnari, Elizabeth Haddock, 27 Second St. Unit 27, \$260,000.00
 Joseph & Sarah Jennings, Sirva Relocation Credit LLC, 30 Bucklin Rd., \$490,000.00
 Sirva Relocation Credit LLC, Yao Fei, 30 Bucklin Rd., \$490,000.00
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 Berry / 114 Co. LLC, Sila Unsal, 32 Compass Pont Unit K2, \$216,900.00
 Wendy Hollis, William Chiang, 67 Millpond, \$320,000.00
 Kathleen Hansberry, William & Denise Andrus, 1401 Great Pond Rd. Unit 13, \$207,500.00
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 Berry / 114 Co. LLC, Varatharajan Venkataraman / Renuka Janarthanan, 24 Compass Point Unit P1, \$498,300.00
 Berry / 114 Co. LLC, Thara Raju / Gopalakrishnan Chandran, 36 Compass Point Unit K4, \$468,300.00

Berry / 114 Co. LLC, Sai Rahul Reddy Pulikunta, 30 Compass Point Unit K1, \$421,000.00
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CHILD CARE: FROM PAGE 9

If we address this problem, we address three challenges at the same time. First, we could make valuable work possible for those parents who seek to contribute to the state's economy. We would improve and expand the profession of early education and care, which is also directly beneficial to our local economies. And, we would be in a stronger position to maintain high standards of safety, education and care

for children so their life-long educational futures can be made as strong as possible. They will then have the tools they need as early as possible to realize their full potentials and will undoubtedly in turn contribute to the future economy and quality of life of the Commonwealth.

Senator O'Connor Ives can be contacted at: KATHLEEN.OCONNORIVES@MASENATE.GOV

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Celebration!**

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Celebrating 35 years of good people doing good things in Methuen. We hope that Past Presidents, Charter Members & members from local/district clubs will attend to help us celebrate this momentous occasion. Special Lottery Ticket Raffle drawn at event (do not need to be present to win: \$1 chance for \$10 or 3 for \$20)

YOUR MONEY

Consider These Steps Before Buying a Business

Alex Talcott

VALLEY PATRIOT MONEY COLUMNISTS

There are 28 million small businesses in the U.S. that employ over 120 million people, according to the Small Business Association¹. For many entrepreneurial people in Massachusetts and New Hampshire, owning a small business starts with creating a plan and building it from the ground up. However, buying a business may have advantages you haven't thought of. Purchasing a business comes with numerous financial considerations, so here are five steps to consider before signing on the dotted line:

1. Determine the type of business you are interested in

Businesses come in many styles and structures, and each type can have an impact on the decisions and potential income you could earn as the owner. It's important to identify the structure that works best for your skillset, interest and lifestyle. Common business options you could purchase include:

- Franchise opportunities, which offer the potential to capitalize on a brand name, track record and organizational support to help get the business up and running. This also comes at a cost, including potential ongoing fees paid to the parent company. Franchising may require you and your employees to adhere to certain standards or processes.

- Independent businesses, which must be valued based on their bottom line, assets and reputation in the marketplace. You will be able to make decisions independently; however, you'll need to establish your own support system.

- Consulting or start-up companies, which often get launched because the current owner has a skill, product or expertise that meets a niche need. They tend to be less formal in structure, but the business could be developed into a more profitable one if it continues to grow.

2. Take the time to complete your due diligence

If a seller puts a business on the market, be sure to understand why. Carefully assess the value and market opportunities of the business. You should ask to review the last few years of financial statements and use them to project potential revenues and costs. Consider bringing in an accountant if you'd like an unbiased perspective. Additionally, be sure to understand what is or is not included in the asking price, such as intellectual property, real estate, staff or equipment.

3. Enlist the help of an experienced attorney

Drawing up the terms of a purchase agreement can be complex. Enlist a trusted attorney to vet the agreement terms and prepare legal documents related to the sale. Future success is dependent on many factors, and getting the legal aspects in order is a big one.

4. Develop a plan to finance the purchase

There are a variety of ways to execute a business sale, including direct or installment loans, venture capital, or paying the previous owner a percentage of future sales. Most options require cash up front as a down payment. Work with your financial advisor to identify accounts or investments you could draw down to make the purchase. Although it may be tempting, avoid dipping into your retirement savings. Your retirement could last decades, and there are no loans you can use if your savings come up short. Plus, any retirement withdrawals you make are taxable and will incur a 10 percent penalty. If you are still searching for the right opportunity, consider saving a set amount each month or investing the sum according to your expected timeframe for the purchase and risk tolerance.

5. Review your personal financial position in detail before making a commitment

Leaving a career with a steady monthly paycheck for one with a varying income level will likely require some adjustments to how you handle your expenses and savings. As you decide with your spouse or partner how to manage routine costs, make sure to also discuss how to continue funding important financial goals like saving for retirement or your child's college education. Many of these choices may have tax implications, so consult your tax professional for guidance. Additionally, explore your options for health and disability insurance to make sure that you and your family maintain adequate coverage.

Many factors can affect your decision to buy a business, and a thoughtful plan is a great place to start. Talk with your financial, legal and tax professionals to make sure you are in a strong financial position to buy a business when the opportunity presents itself.

1- El-Najjar, Ahmad. "Small Business in the US by the Numbers," Townsquare, May 14, 2017.

Alex Talcott, JD, is a Financial Advisor with Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc. in Middleton, Massachusetts and Portsmouth and Bedford, New Hampshire. He specializes in fee-based financial planning and asset management strategies and has been in practice for over 10 years. To contact him: (603) 319-3108; 25 Chestnut St., Ste. 300N, Portsmouth, NH, 03801; www.ameripriseadvisors.com/alex.talcott

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Sen. Donoghue - A Showcase of Solutions Looking for a Problem

John MacDonald

LOWELL COLUMNIST

When will Senator Donoghue work on and support bills that really matter to the people of the 1st Middlesex? Donoghue's latest proposed bill that pushes "Mass Made" products is yet another example of a solution looking for a problem. On the face of the bill, Massachusetts consumers knowing whether a product is made in Massachusetts is a nice thing, but really what does it matter to the 1st Middlesex business owner trying to keep their doors open for business? Nothing!

While Senator Donoghue seeks the path of least resistance in the State House, by producing meaningless legislation, business owners and tax payers of the first Middlesex wonder why she isn't working on serious legislation that will make an impact on their daily lives? Why has Donoghue spent time working on "Mass Made" bills, when 1st Middlesex business owners could be helped by her fighting for tax-free weekends, proposed by the Governor and then shot down by Donoghue. Or how about reducing the state sales tax? Does she know how much 1st Middlesex border businesses are negatively impacted by the State of New Hampshire?

Why is Senator Donoghue working on "Time Zone" studies, when parents and students are worrying about school safety? I spoke with grandparents, yesterday that said their grandchild was afraid of school and didn't want to die. Why hasn't Senator Donoghue proposed a task force to investigate how we address mental health or how we are identifying and tracking individuals making threats to schools and fellow students on social media? Grandparents, parents and children are terrified. A task force of this nature and action is much more important than "Mass Made" feel good legislation.

Why has Senator Donoghue worked on Legislative pay raises, her own 87% pay

raise, when veterans and first responders could use the creation of a task force to study Post Traumatic Stress Disorder! 22 veterans a day commit suicide. Why, because a legislative pay raise was more important, so important that it required an "emergency" vote in the middle of the night.

Now Senator Donoghue, the leader of meaningless legislation seeks to be the City Manager of Lowell. She supports illegal immigration and Massachusetts becoming a sanctuary state. The financial burden she will place on the City of Lowell and the towns of the 1st Middlesex will be profound. Currently the Commonwealth spends \$2 Billion per year of taxpayer dollars on illegal immigration, which includes free healthcare, housing and free in-state college tuition. Whether she defends her seat for State Senate or is ushered into leading the City of Lowell, she will cost the tax payers of the 1st Middlesex... dearly.

It's a dangerous, unethical and immoral time for the City of Lowell, when Eileen Donoghue openly advocates and secures votes in advance of the process to select Lowell's next City Manager. The people of Lowell deserve better from their elected leaders. Lowell is an important city and it deserves knowledgeable, experienced and honest leadership. The process of selecting the next city manager should be open and the position should be posted at a minimum, statewide. Lowell City Manager, should not be the consolation prize for Eileen Donoghue, because she lost her bid to become Senate President.

It's time for the people of the 1st Middlesex to demand better. It's time to expect more from so-called leaders of the 1st Middlesex. Demand more! It's time to elect people who understand the needs, dreams and goals of the tax payer. It's time to elect people who meet with, talk and listen to you.



Three who served: Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class, Pam Parent-Melanson, her dad, Seabee Master Chief Rene Cap Parent, and in the middle, Infantryman Frank Polewarczyk at a party honoring Frank.

HERO: FROM PAGE 1

had his arms and legs!

He was awarded many honors, including the Bronze Star and Purple Heart from the United States, and the Legion of Honor from France, that nation's highest award, (awarded nearly 75 years after he was wounded in Germany) and wears the Combat Infantry Badge, one of the most respected awards in the U.S. Military, and only awarded to U.S. Army Infantrymen for Combat Action against the enemy.

After the war, Frank married, delivered milk, worked in the textile industry and tended bar for a while. Later on, Frank embarked on a career in construction that included building sections of the "Eisenhower Interstate System". This

transportation marvel that most of us take for granted, but did not exist until built by President Dwight Eisenhower in the 1950s. The current U.S. Interstate Highway system was modeled after what then General Eisenhower saw in Germany. Breakfast lasted three hours, hearing Frank describe his role in the battles on the border of France and Germany, I was captivated, and could have listened all day.

John Cuddy is retired from the US Navy's Construction Battalions, (also known as the Seabees). After retiring, earned BA History and MA Economics from University of Massachusetts at the Lowell Campus, employed in Logistics at FedEx for last 21 years.



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SUSAN'S BOOK REVIEWS

Stolen by a Highland Rogue

Sue Piazza

VALLEY PATRIOT BOOK REVIEWS

A Scottish Historical Romance (Scottish Treasure, Book 1) by Vonda Sinclair
© 2016

Kindle Price \$2.00, Paperback \$7.99,
Audiobook also available (No price listed)
Genre: Fiction: Historical Romance
www.vondasinclair.com
Rating: 4.25 out of 5 Bookmarkers

Vonda Sinclair, a USA Today Bestselling author, focuses on Scottish romances. She has written several novels under her "The Highland Adventure Series". This one belongs to the subset "The Scottish Treasure Series". An Epilogue and Preview of her next book "Defended by a Highland Renegade" round out this volume.

This tale takes place in the Scottish Highlands in 1619. The plot is basic but enjoyable. From scanning the author's novels they appear, as this one does, to deal mainly with two individuals and their relationship to each other. If one becomes enamored of a couple, then one can find the book that deals with their story.

Entrusted with a priceless dagger that hailed from King Richard the Lionheart and King Robert the Bruce, Clan leader Dugald MacKerrick learns that this

ancient heirloom has been stolen from him. It comes up missing days after the betrothal ceremony linking Alec Lindsay to Mairiana, Dugald's sister.

The Lindsay Clan, a powerful rival, had expressed interest in purchasing the piece and were vexed at not being able to. Not finding the item after tearing apart the castle and out buildings, Dugald leads a group of men in search of the Lindsays. MacKerrick has a pretty good idea that they absconded with the weapon especially considering the Lindsays took off in the middle of the night.

Dugald planned to kidnap his sister so she wouldn't marry the suspected thief. However, a different kind of kidnapping ensues. A game of flirtation arises. Marriage proposals come into play and are discussed as mergers between clans.

There is a certain amount of Scottish wordage but it is minimal. I have read Scottish Highland novels that were impossible to decipher; I would have had to speak Scottish to figure out the words meaning. This book adds just enough dialect to sweeten the plot without making the reading and pleasure indigestible.

If you are a fan of romance you will enjoy this book. It is light hearted and an easy read. I finished it in a day.

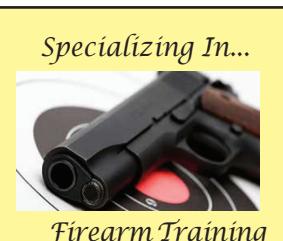


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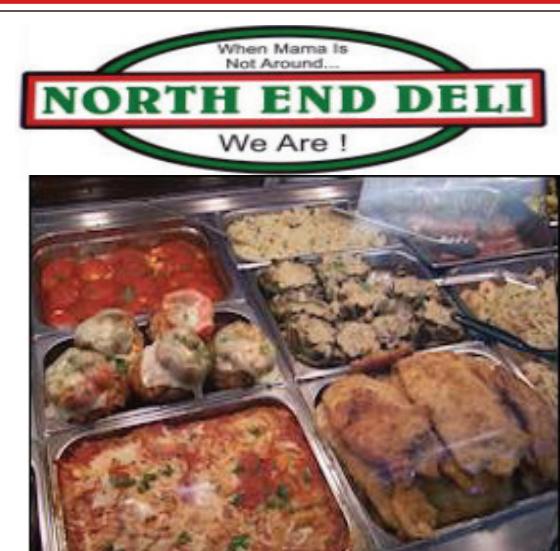


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Quit Condemning Yourself God Has You Covered!

Peter Larocque

PAYING ATTENTION COLUMNIST

Have you ever got caught in situations where it's either one of your own making, or one of an accusatorily nature where you have done something you were aware or weren't aware was wrong? Have you ever claimed to be innocent when your accusers were standing right there? It could be as simple as the scale after you ate something you knew was bad for you. Have you ever done a task at work that you knew just wasn't your best work because you took a few "short cuts"? How about something that you knew was wrong but was encouraged to do it anyway?

So, what did you do when you found yourself in these sticky situations? Did you say to yourself I'll do a better job and work harder next time? Did you ask for forgiveness and say you'll never do it again? Do you find yourself in a continual cycle of defeat that you can't get out of and secretly pray that you won't get caught? Is there help for me?

Let's read a story that is found in the Gospel of John 8:3-11, "Then the scribes and Pharisees brought to Him [Jesus] a woman caught in adultery. And when they had set her in the midst, 4 they said to Him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery, in the very act. 5 Now Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned. But what do you say?" 6 This they said, testing Him, that they might have something of which to accuse Him. But Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground with His finger, as though He did not hear. 7 So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, "He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first." 8 And again He stooped down and wrote on the ground. 9 Then those who heard it, being convicted by their conscience, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest even to the last. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.

10 When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, "Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?" 11 She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more."

Most people, including Christians today when reading this set their attention on the words, go and sin no more, but Jesus said more emphatically before those words, "NEITHER Do I CONDEMN YOU". Jesus gave her the gift of no condemnation which enabled her to then go and sin

no more! Jesus said this knowing full well that in the not so distant future He would pay for her sin along with all of ours on the Cross. Jesus said these words on the Cross which we read in Luke 23:34 "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do."

Today with full assurance we now have freedom to say, Jesus forgives me and neither does He condemn me! Read Romans 8:1, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus..." We too have the gift of no condemnation!

So what is your story or scenario? What do you need the Grace of God for in your life? If you're like me who needs that Grace at times for every breath I take. You may say, "No, it's not that easy", but oh contraire mon frère, it actually is.

By confessing Jesus as Lord in your life and that God raised him from the dead you can now have a new life! (Read Romans 10:9-10). You can read about this new life in 2 Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new".

Jesus paid the price for all these situations and circumstances we find ourselves in. Jesus' blood was shed for our forgiveness and his body was broken for our healing, we can now live life more abundantly!

As we prepare for next month's celebration of Resurrection Sunday, (some refer to it as Easter), I conclude with these words from Romans 5:12, 14-17, "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: 14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come. 15 But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many. 16 And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification. 17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.

I pray that you too are numbered among those who have received an abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness and reign in this life by one, Jesus Christ!

Love to all,
Peter Larocque
peterlarocque@hotmail.com



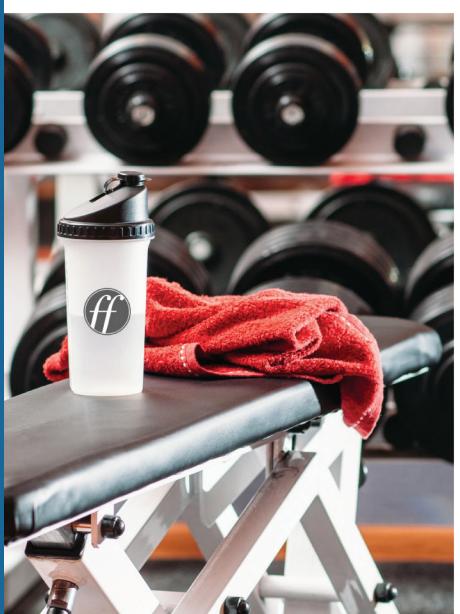
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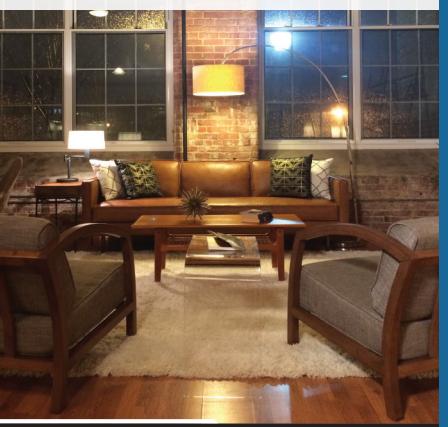
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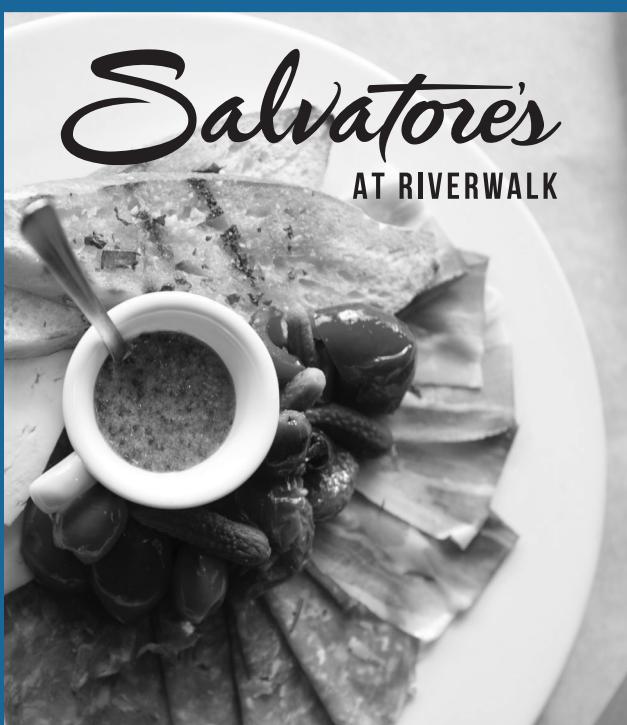
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